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S-E-C-R-E-T

Since 12 October 1952 the Sofia area has been disturbed by the recall of a large number of reservists from Sofia and vicinity. The first recalls occurred on the night of 12 October 1952, and the people of Sofia, who are not accustomed to being roused at night except by the State Seturity Police, believed that arrests were being made.

The first moments of fear were followed by the belief that something very serious awaited them because Sofia had never seen so many reservists recalled at one time or so hastily. Some reservists, especially those from the villages, were accompanied by members of their families, as if they expected to leave directly for the front.

The total number of persons recalled cannot be estimated, but there were certainly several thousand within several days and nights. The recalls generally took place after midnight. Communist Party members had to report within hours, and other persons within 6 hours. The Communists were probably organized before the others to insure that a cadre of the faithful would surround the others who were mobilized.

All persons who were recalled had to report between 0300 and 0800 hours to the military authorities, who were waiting for them in the various Sofia schools. Students had previously been given a 3-day vacation. Equipped and clothed on the spot, the reservists were sent by truck into an area probably near Sofia to form their units. They were not told beforehand where they were gold.

A rumer circulated to the effect that all reservists from the class of 1910 (42 years old) on were to be mobilized. It was also reported that the let and 60, regiments of the 1st Division in Sofia would be organized. These rumors could not be verified.

Although the region around Sofia was disturbed by the recall, other sections of Bulgaria apparently were not affected by recalls. Although the number of persons recalled was large, it constituted only a minority of Sofia's 600,000 inhabitants. Necessary arrangements had been made in May which would permit partial (regional) trial mobilizations during 1952.

Since some operations of this type had taken place in 1951 in Plovdiv, Kolarcvgrad, and Dobrudzha, it seems to me that this is only a repetition of these maneuvers to test the efficacy of the mobilization system.

The Bulgarian Army apparently did not carry on maneuvers during September 1958. This does not appear normal in view of the fact that Bulgaria has 7 million inhabitants with 250,000 men under arms. It is, therefore, possible that the present recall may be connected with fall maneuvers.



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The oldest of reports state Pleven deve this trial mo tended origin	sactions of classes rather than entire classes have been recalled. lass to be called is reportedly the class of 1910. Unconfirmed a that three armies are being organized around Sofia, Plovdiv, and eral hundred Soviet efficers are said to have arrived to witness chilization. Bulgarian military authorities are said to have in- nally to hold only a trial mobilization lasting one week, but upon tence they extended the period of instruction to 30 days.	
cause of their called up. I days, the res free cigarett were impresse they were full	ng to some reservists who were recalled but were later released be- ir health, the military authorities cordially velcomed the persons The mobilization itself was well organized. During the first few servists received good rations and quarters and were supplied with tes. All are said to have been well-clothed. These reservists ed most of all by the speeches made by their commanders because ill of patriotism and were very different from those to which the ulation is ambjected.	50X1-HUI
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ing taken par	The Sofia reserviate who were called up between tober 1952 were released on 3, 4, and 5 November 1952, after haver in the maneuvers which were held between Vakarel and Ikhtiman man-Sofia-Svilengrad railroad, 50 kilometers from Sofia in the di-loydiv.	
defended from of the maneuv soldiers, and passengers or	course of these maneuvers, two "armies" opposed one another. One in the other the access to the road leading to Sofia. At the time wers, the automobile route from Sofia to Plovdiv was blocked by a access to the area was prohibited to civilians. However, train in the same route could see some phases of the maneuvers of the two ch took place not far from the railroad.	
For the great congest	first 2 days, the concentration of troops in the area caused tion which held up the exercises.	
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